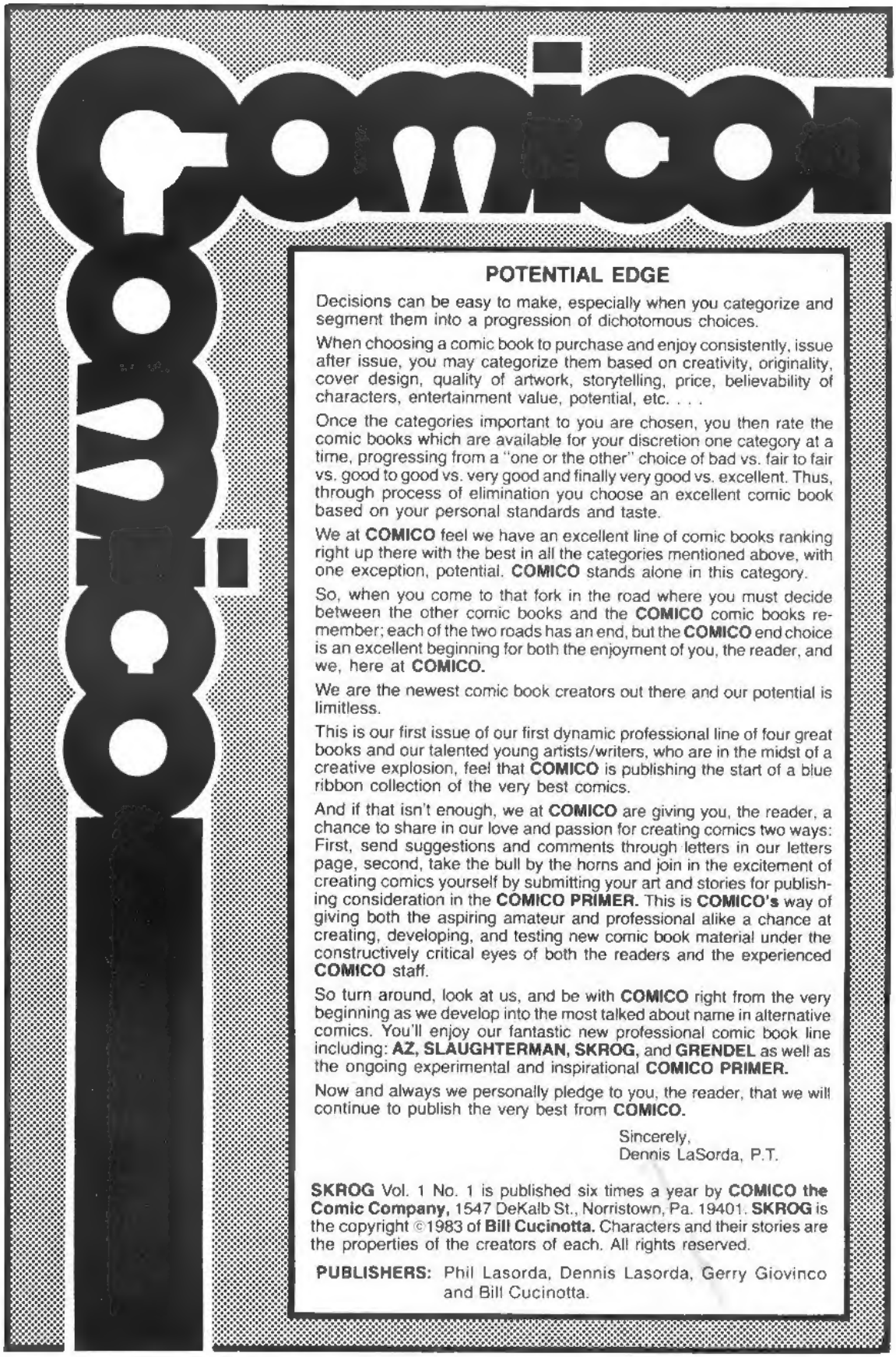

Comico
the comic company ©
GRENDEL
TM
1
$1.50
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POTENTIAL EDGE

Decisions can be easy to make, especially when you categorize and segment them into a progression of dichotomous choices.

When choosing a comic book to purchase and enjoy consistently, issue after issue, you may categorize them based on creativity, originality, cover design, quality of artwork, storytelling, price, believability of characters, entertainment value, potential, etc. . . .

Once the categories important to you are chosen, you then rate the comic books which are available for your discretion one category at a time, progressing from a "one or the other" choice of bad vs. fair to fair vs. good to good vs. very good and finally very good vs. excellent. Thus, through process of elimination you choose an excellent comic book based on your personal standards and taste.

We at **COMICO** feel we have an excellent line of comic books ranking right up there with the best in all the categories mentioned above, with one exception, potential. **COMICO** stands alone in this category.

So, when you come to that fork in the road where you must decide between the other comic books and the **COMICO** comic books remember; each of the two roads has an end, but the **COMICO** end choice is an excellent beginning for both the enjoyment of you, the reader, and we, here at **COMICO.**

We are the newest comic book creators out there and our potential is limitless.

This is our first issue of our first dynamic professional line of four great books and our talented young artists/writers, who are in the midst of a creative explosion, feel that **COMICO** is publishing the start of a blue ribbon collection of the very best comics.

And if that isn't enough, we at **COMICO** are giving you, the reader, a chance to share in our love and passion for creating comics two ways: First, send suggestions and comments through letters in our letters page, second, take the bull by the horns and join in the excitement of creating comics yourself by submitting your art and stories for publishing consideration in the **COMICO PRIMER.** This is **COMICO's** way of giving both the aspiring amateur and professional alike a chance at creating, developing, and testing new comic book material under the constructively critical eyes of both the readers and the experienced **COMICO** staff.

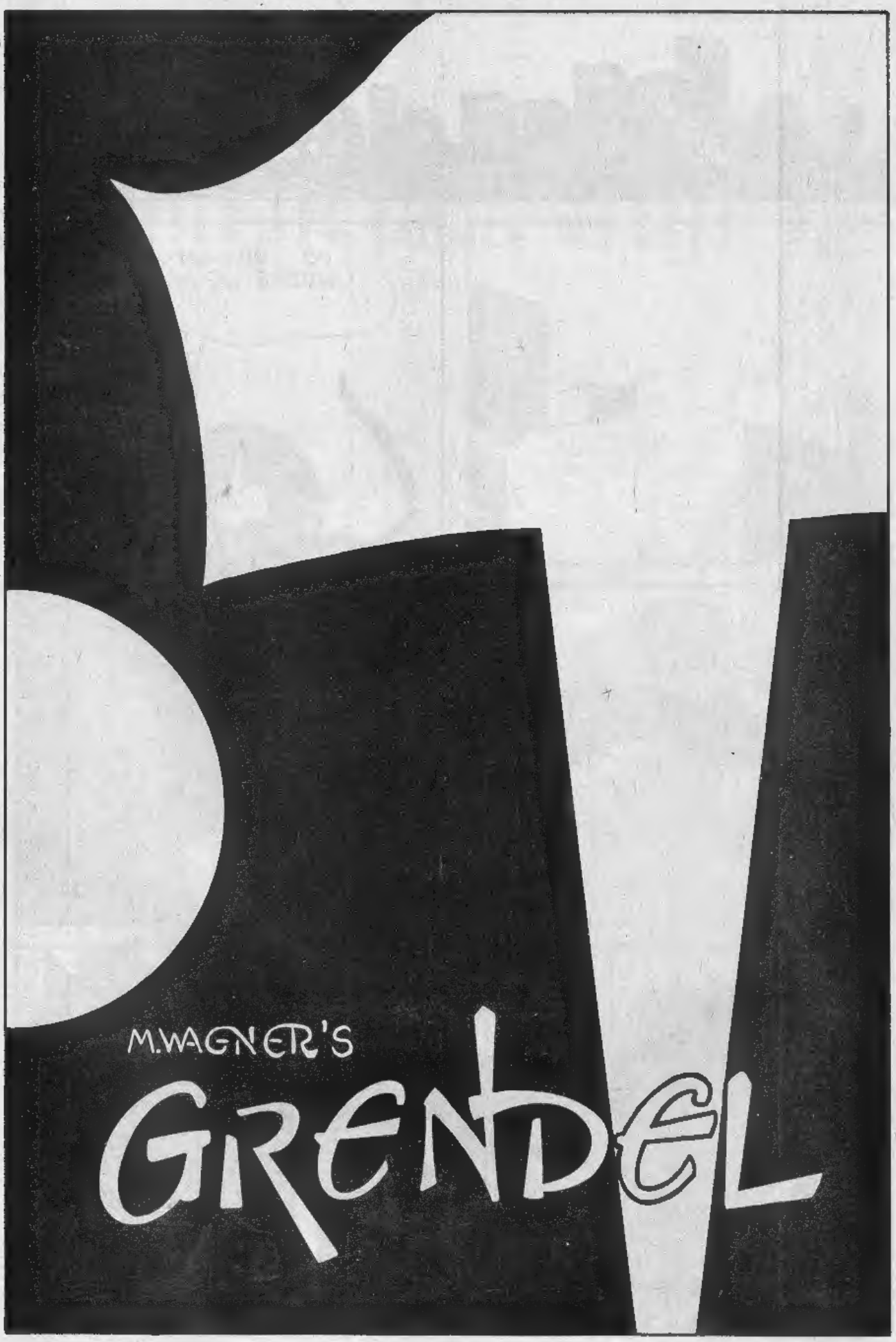
So turn around, look at us, and be with **COMICO** right from the very beginning as we develop into the most talked about name in alternative comics. You'll enjoy our fantastic new professional comic book line including: **AZ, SLAUGHTERMAN, SKROG,** and **GRENDEL** as well as the ongoing experimental and inspirational **COMICO PRIMER.**

Now and always we personally pledge to you, the reader, that we will continue to publish the very best from **COMICO.**

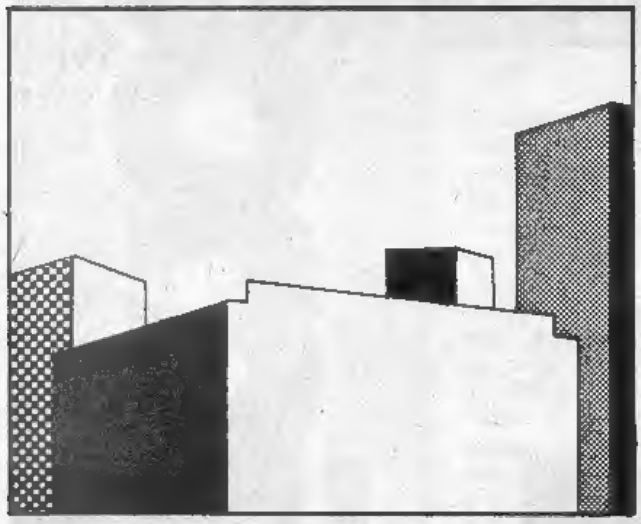
Sincerely,
Dennis LaSorda, P.T.

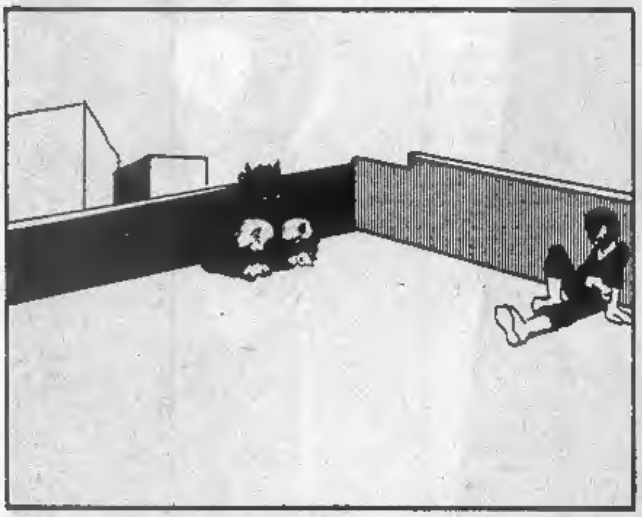
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PUBLISHERS: Phil Lasorda, Dennis Lasorda, Gerry Giovinco and Bill Cucinotta.


M.WAGNER'S
GRENDEL








DO THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE?


NO.


SO THERE'S NO CHANCE THAT THEY'LL FIND US?


NO.

N. MAGNELLS

GRENDEL

IN

NEVER THE NORNS SURRENDER

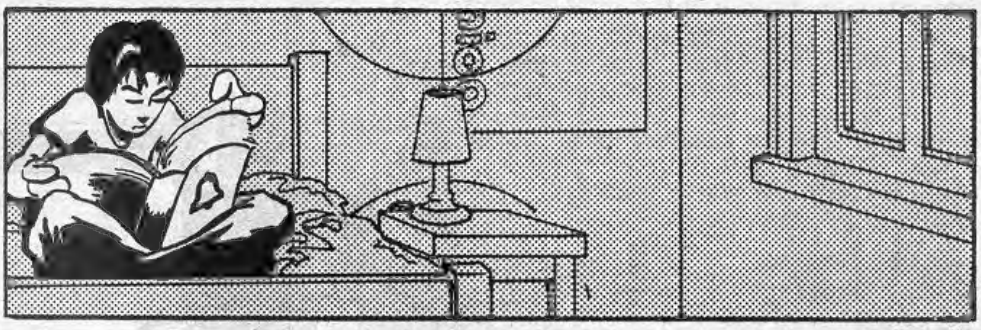



AND YOU TOO.
THAT SOUNDED MORE STATEMENT THAN QUESTION.
IT WAS.
OH? YOU TRUST ME THEN?
YES.
HA! HA! HA!
I ALSO HATE YOU.
AND FEAR ME?
YES.
OH, ARGENT, WHY ARE WE SO ALIKE?
FATE.
NO!


NO. NOT FATE! I REJECTED THE ENTIRE CONCEPT LONG AGO!
DESTINY IS AN EXCUSE AN OPIATE FOR THE WEAK! AND I AM NOT WEAK!
ROSE.
HUH?
YOU. YOU'RE HUNTER ROSE!
OH. OH YES! I'D NEARLY FORGOTTEN THAT NO ONE'S EVER SEEN ME UNMASKED. YES, GRENDEL IS HUNTER ROSE! SURPRISE! SURPRISE! EVER READ ME?


MOST EVERYONE'S READ AT LEAST ONE HUNTER ROSE NOVEL.
WELL, ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU COULD READ.
OH, SORRY, THAT WASN'T MEANT AS AN INSULT!
LET'S FACE IT ARGENT. BESIDES THE NATURAL INSTINCTS OF HUNTER AND PREY TOWARDS EACH OTHER, NEITHER OF US KNOWS MUCH OF ANYTHING OF THE OTHER! CHRIST! HUNTER ROSE ISN'T MY REAL NAME, AND ALL THE BIOGRAPHICAL INFO ON HIM IS TOTALLY CONTRIVED. WELL, LISTEN UP, FUZZY, 'CAUSE THIS IS THE VERY FIRST TELLING OF THIS STORY, AND I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE A SECOND.
MY GIVEN NAME IS EDDIE! AND I GREW UP IN ONE OF THE COUNTLESS AMERICAN SUBURBS. A SEEMINGLY NORMAL MIDDLE-CLASS KID... I WAS, FOR SOME UNKNOWN CAUSE, ACTUALLY A FREAK!

"NO, I DON'T HAVE AN EYE WHERE MY NAVEL SHOULD BE. MY BRAIN IS MUTATED. I USE MORE OF ITS CAPACITY THAN MOST PEOPLE. I HAVE PRACTICALLY TOTAL RECALL."



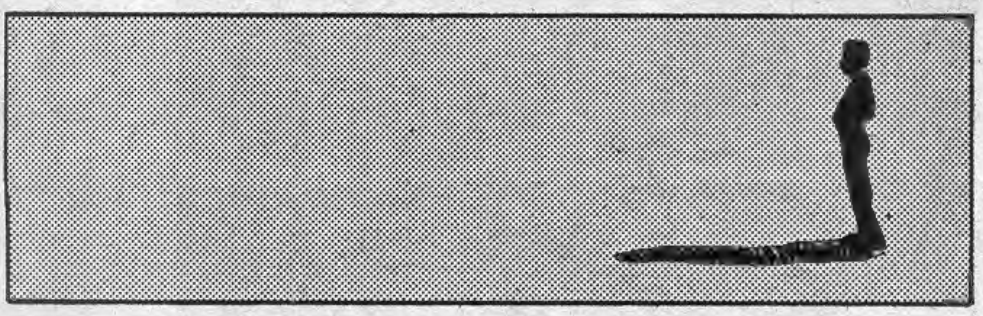
"I EXCELLED AT EVERYTHING I DID. RIDICULOUSLY SO."



"BUT BEHIND 'MR. WONDERFUL' WERE THE SAME EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS EVERY KID HAS. MY PARENTS WERE FOOLS! 'IT'S OK! WE UNDERSTAND!' THEY WERE BEHIND ME ALL THE WAY! BUT WHAT I NEEDED WAS SOMEONE IN FRONT OF ME... DIRECTION!"



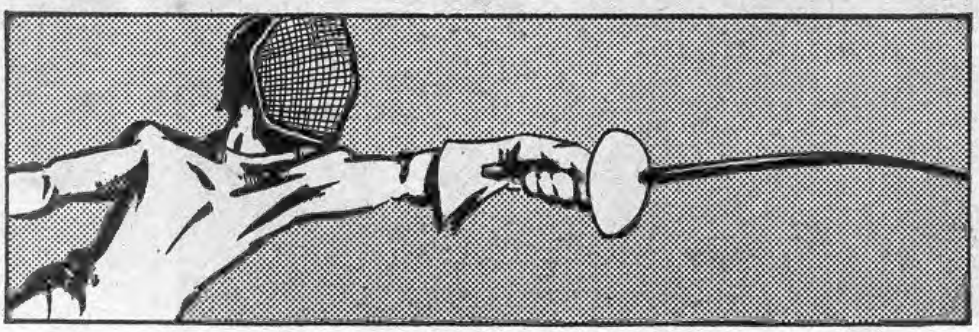
"IT WASN'T VERY LONG 'TIL I FELT EXTREEMLY BORED AND LONELY."



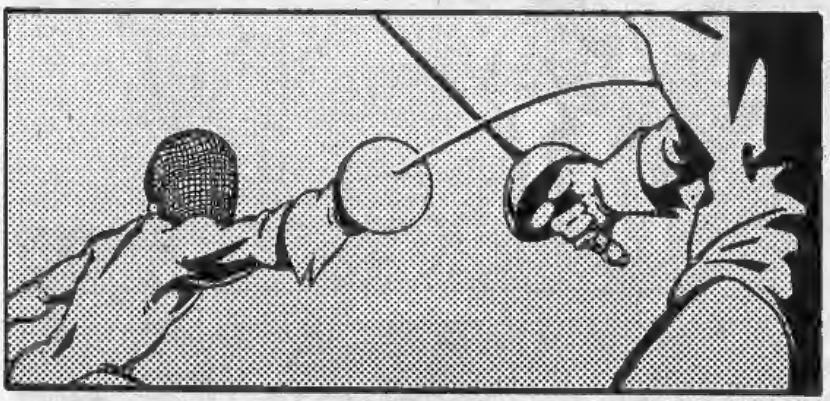
"I TENDED TO SHUN TEAM SPORTS AND INSTEAD WENT FOR THOSE WITH A MORE INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION LIKE WRESTLING..."

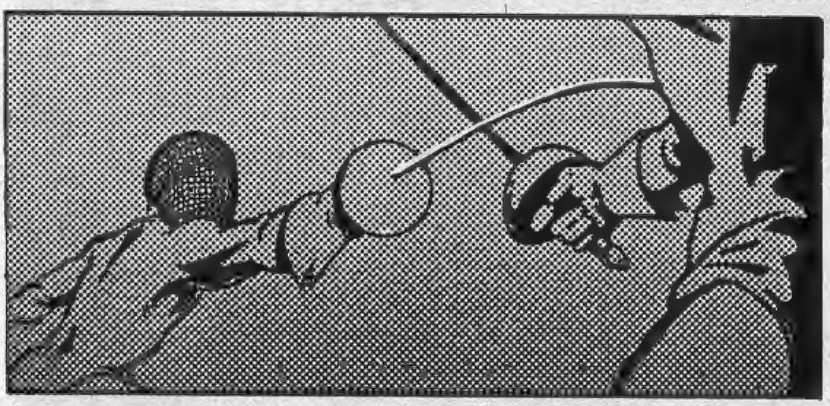


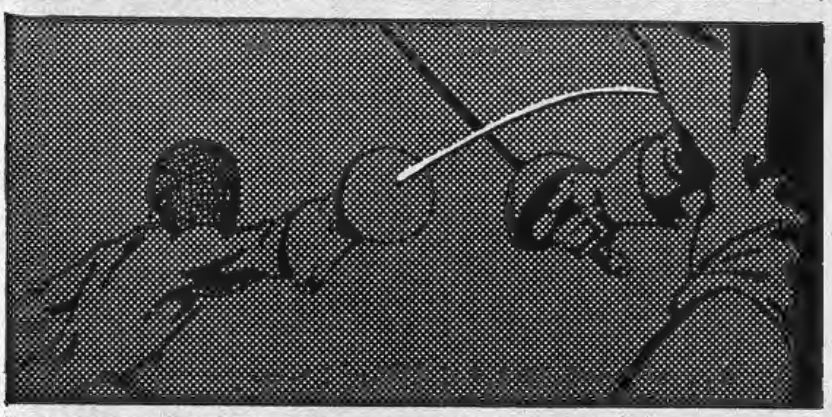
"...AND ESPECIALLY FENCING!"

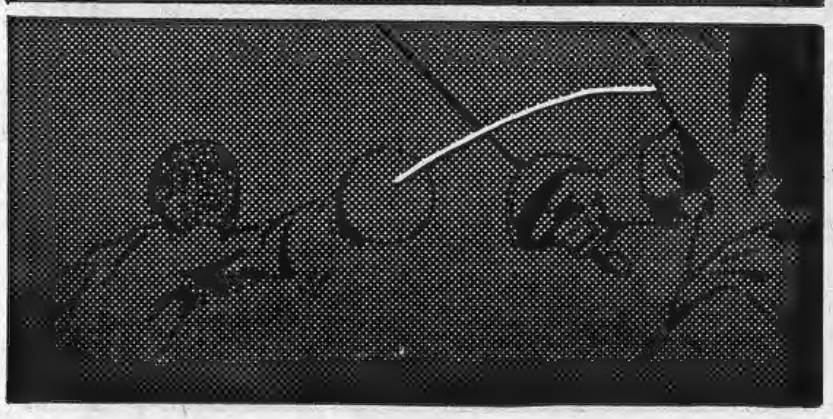


"YES, ESPECIALLY FENCING. I **ADORED** EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. I, OF COURSE BECAME QUITE GOOD AT IT. **SO GOOD**, IN FACT, THAT I WENT WITH THE U.S. TEAM TO THE **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**... IN LONDON. THE QUICKEST, MOST SUBTLE AND EXPERIENCED FENCERS IN THE WORLD WERE THERE."



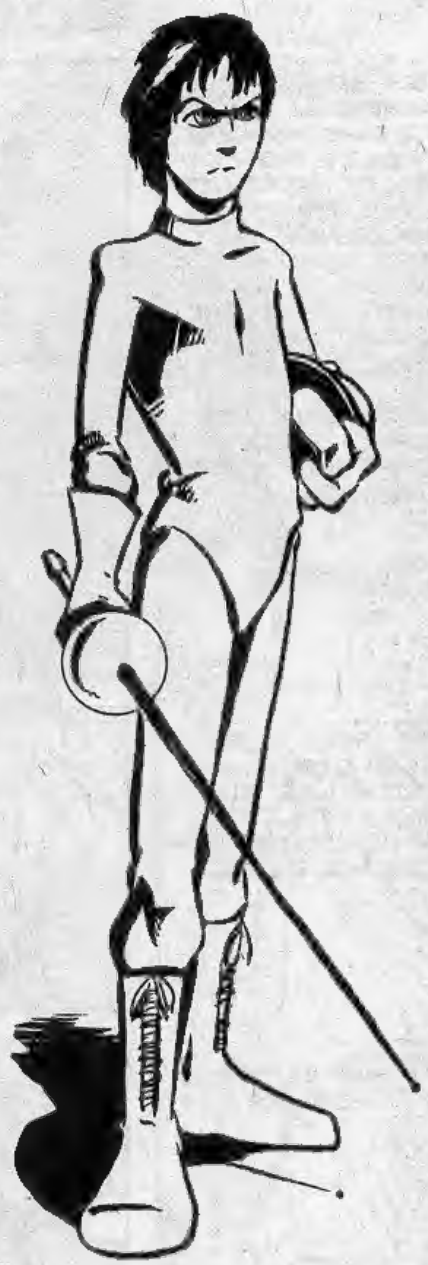






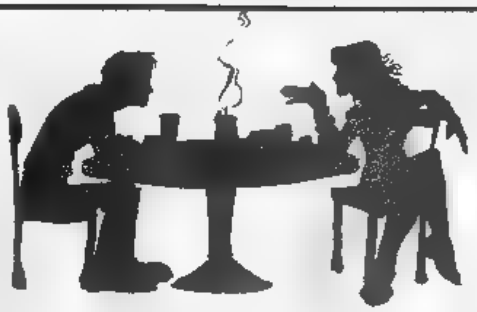
"I WON.

I WAS FOURTEEN.




"ON MY WAY BACK TO THE LOCKER ROOM..."
YOUR STYLE IS REFRESHING...
... AND YOUR AGILITY BREATHTAKING!
HI, EDDIE, I'M JOCASTA ROSE~JACKIE! I'M A TRAINER WITH THE BRITISH TEAM, AND I WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE! I'VE NEVER SEEN A BLADE MOVE SO BLOODY FAST. FASCINATING!
SO, I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP BY TO SEE IF THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE THAT YOU WOULD CARE TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT.

" WE HAD DINNER IN HER APARTMENT, AND IF EVER MY CYNICAL EYES WERE CLEAR, IT WAS THEN. I WAS ENCHANTED. HER EYES SPARKLED, AND HER LAUGH ROLLED GENTLY ACROSS ME. AND, AS THE EVENING WORE ON, I REALIZED THAT THE REST OF MY LIFE WOULD HINGE ON THIS MOMENT, AS THE SONG GOES... 'CHANGING MY LIFE WITH A WAVE OF HER HAND... HERE, THERE!...'"











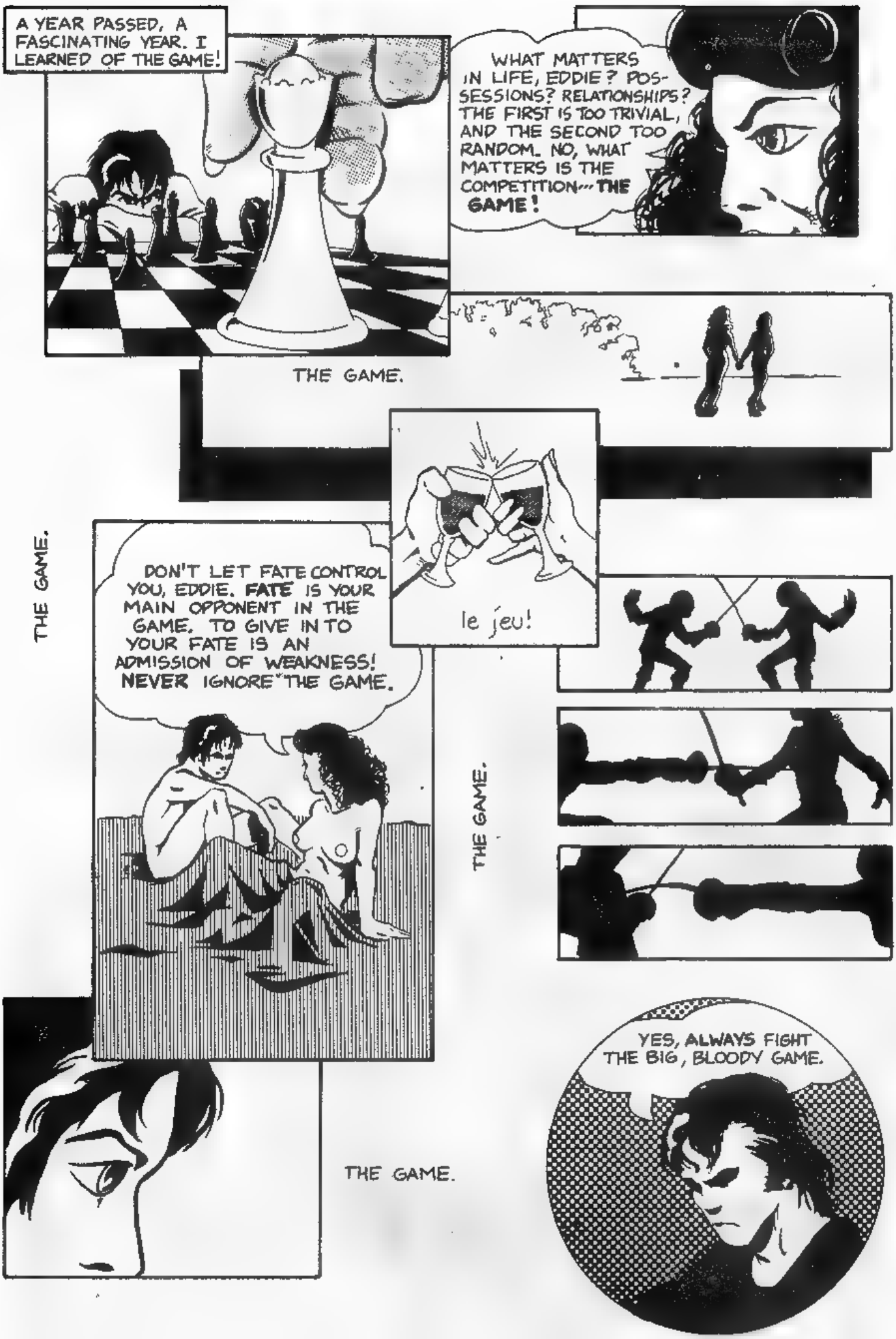






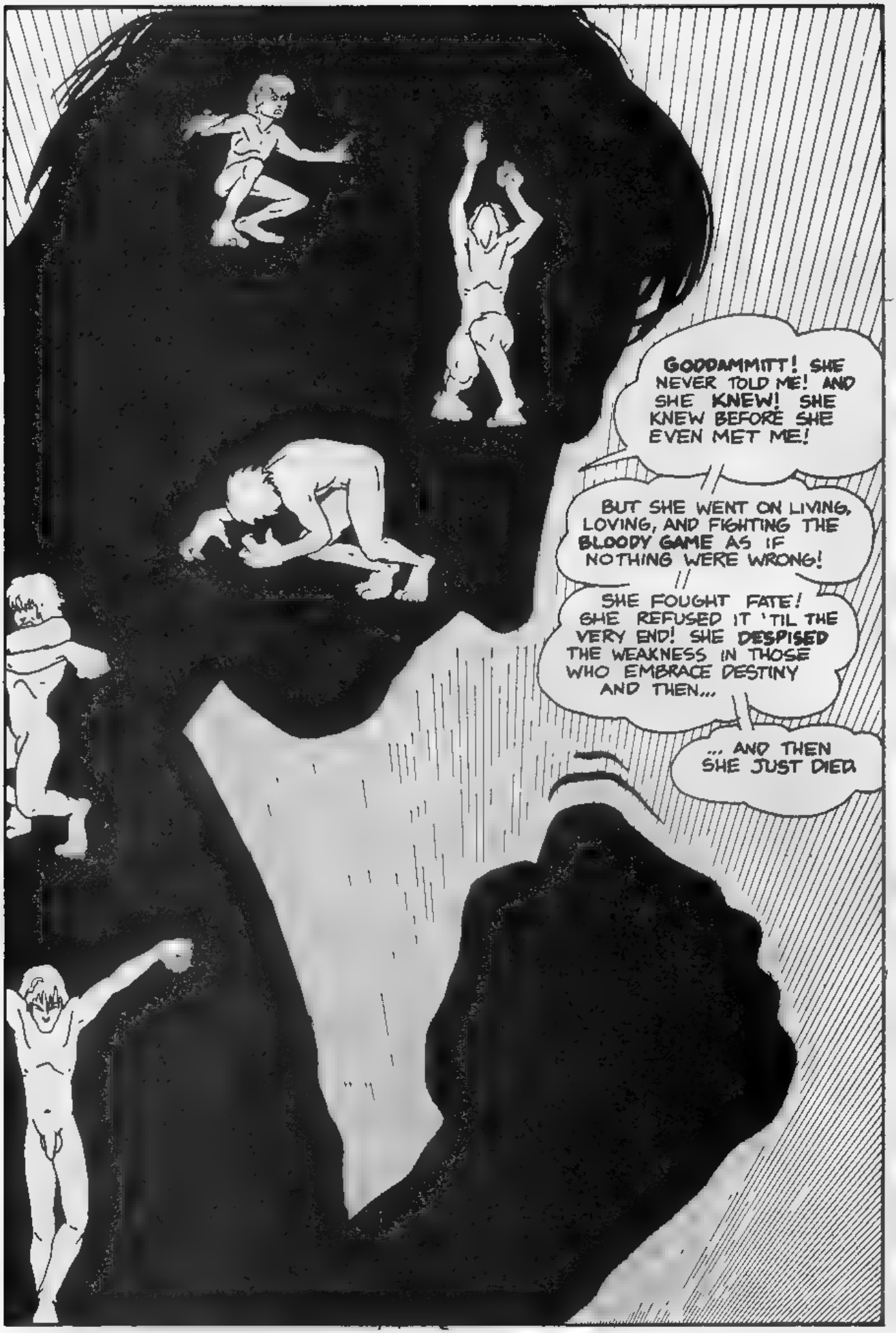


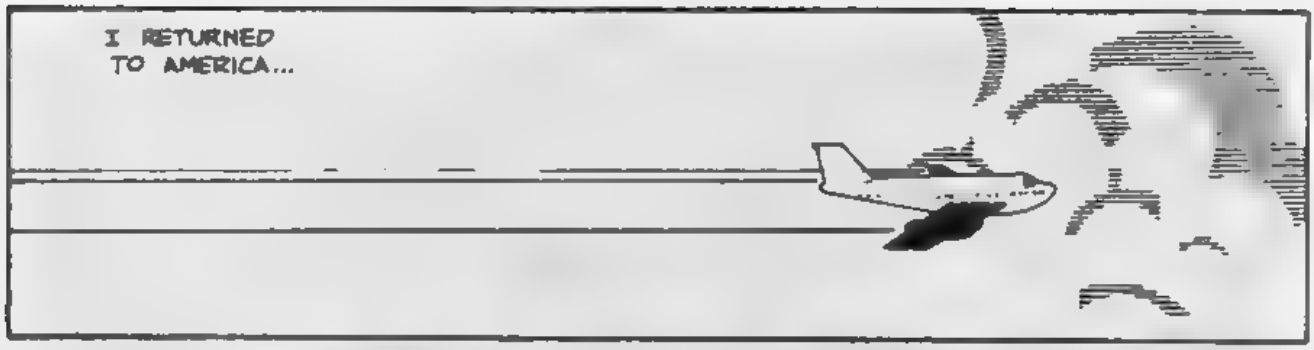



A YEAR PASSED, A FASCINATING YEAR. I LEARNED OF THE GAME!
WHAT MATTERS IN LIFE, EDDIE? POSSESSIONS? RELATIONSHIPS? THE FIRST IS TOO TRIVIAL, AND THE SECOND TOO RANDOM. NO, WHAT MATTERS IS THE COMPETITION... THE GAME!
THE GAME.
le jeu!
THE GAME.
DON'T LET FATE CONTROL YOU, EDDIE. FATE IS YOUR MAIN OPPONENT IN THE GAME. TO GIVE IN TO YOUR FATE IS AN ADMISSION OF WEAKNESS! NEVER IGNORE THE GAME.
THE GAME.
THE GAME.
YES, ALWAYS FIGHT THE BIG, BLOODY GAME.


BUT, SHE AWAKENED ME. LOVE OPENED ME AND POINTED ME AND I REVELED IN IT!
OH, ARGENT, HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN SUCH LOVE?
YES
HUH?
YES, I HAVE.
OH.


SO, HOW DID SHE DIE?
IT'S THAT OBVIOUS HUH? SHE... SHE WAS ILL. TERMINALLY ILL.
DAMMITT!

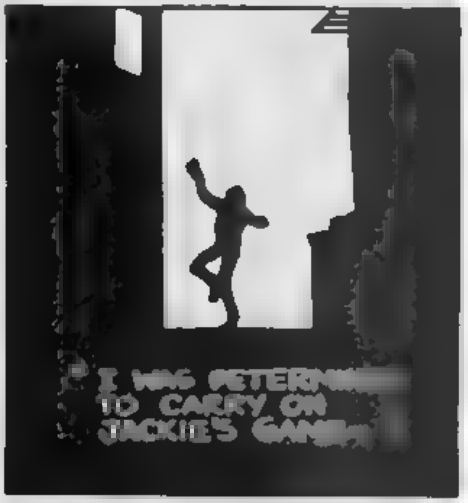

GODDAMMITT! SHE NEVER TOLD ME! AND SHE KNEW! SHE KNEW BEFORE SHE EVEN MET ME!
BUT SHE WENT ON LIVING, LOVING, AND FIGHTING THE BLOODY GAME AS IF NOTHING WERE WRONG!
SHE FOUGHT FATE! SHE REFUSED IT 'TIL THE VERY END! SHE DESPISED THE WEAKNESS IN THOSE WHO EMBRACE DESTINY AND THEN...
... AND THEN SHE JUST DIED


I RETURNED TO AMERICA...

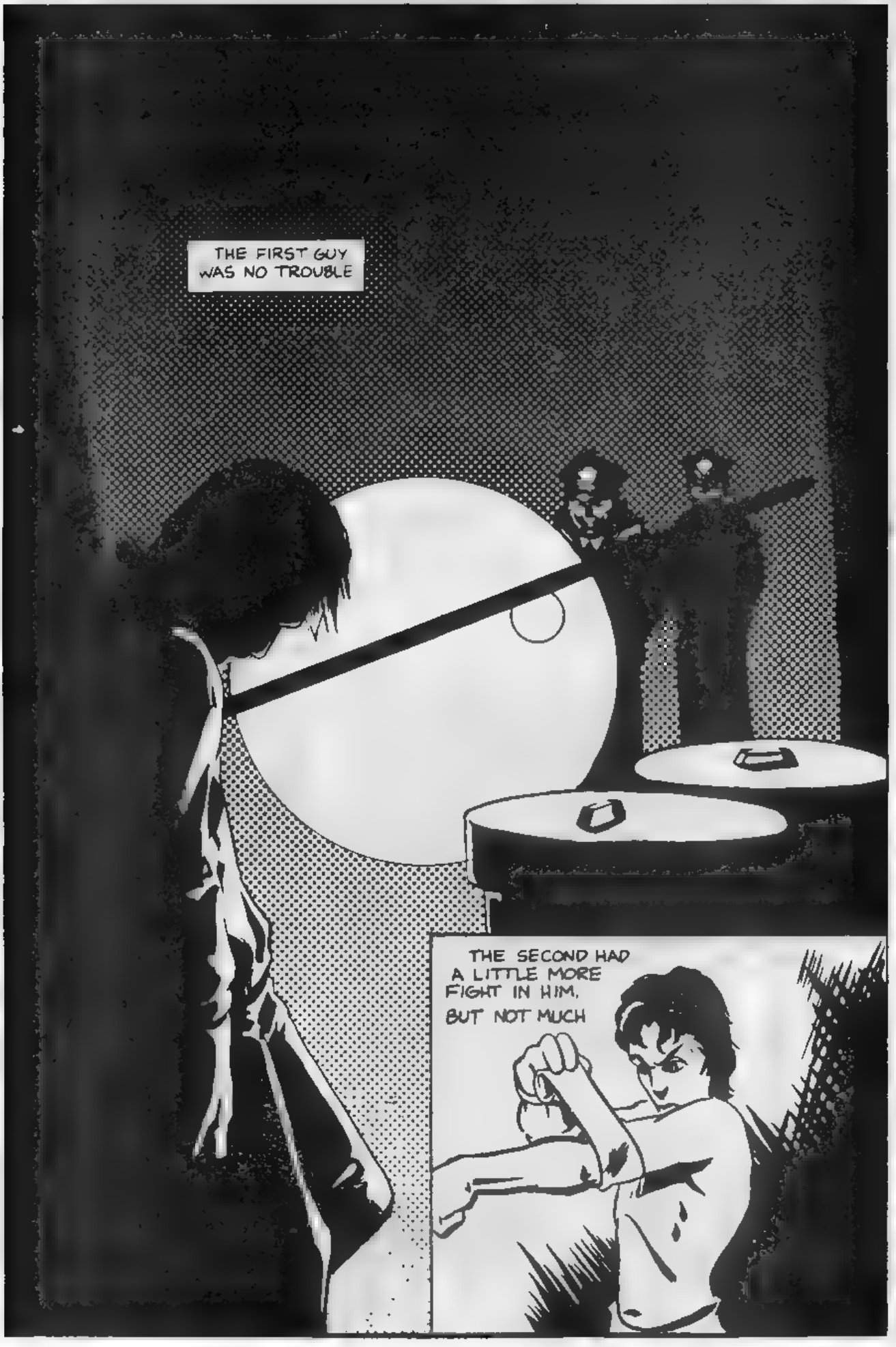

"BUT NOT TO MY HOME."


"I BECAME FAMILIAR WITH NEW YORK'S SEEDIER SIDE. I WATCHED AND LISTENED, INTENTLY..."


"...BUT SECRETLY"


I WAS DETERMINED TO CARRY ON JACKIE'S GAME...


...IN THE ONLY STRUGGLE THAT WOULD PRESENT ANY CHALLENGE!


THE FIRST GUY WAS NO TROUBLE
THE SECOND HAD A LITTLE MORE FIGHT IN HIM, BUT NOT MUCH


SO, PAL, WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
I... DIDN'T KILL THEM.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE NOT SO DRAMATIC, BUT I HIRED YOU.
SO, WHAT DOES THIS SHOW ME?
THAT THERE'S SOMEONE BETTER THAN YOU OUT THERE?
BULLSHIT! THERE IS NO ONE BETTER THAN ME! I'M THE BEST THERE IS GODDAMMIT! THE KING!
"'AND, SO, THE TIME HAS COME,' THE WALRUS SAID..."




"I CHOSE THE NAME GRENDEL AFTER MUCH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. ITS DARK ORIGINS SERVED TO CAUSE AN UNEASE IN ANYONE! I CHOSE THE FORKS AS MY WEAPON TO FURTHER THE DEMONIC IMAGE. THE COSTUME HAS CLIMBING DEVICES BUILT INTO THE GLOVES AND BOOTS, GIVING ME A FLEXIBLE MOBILITY. I WAS PAID WELL FOR THE HITS I MADE AND SOON FOUND MYSELF VERY WEALTHY. THEN I STARTED WRITING. AS HUNTER ROSE, I EASILY MADE THE BEST-SELLER LIST TIME AND AGAIN, BUT I FOUND THIS FORM OF EXPRESSION SOOTHING. THINGS LOOKED GOOD.
BY THE WAY, MY PARENTS HAD DIED WHILE I WAS GONE."
CRION · ROS
EE CLUB
ROS
INDIGO
Hunter Rose


"AND, SO, I ENJOYED A UNIQUE, DOUBLE FORM OF NOTORIETY AS HUNTER ROSE I ATTENDED ALL NUMBER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS WHILE AS GRENDEL..."
OH YES, EVEN PAINTS A HUGE "G" NEARBY IN THE BLOOD OF HIS VICTIMS
...AND THEY SAY THIS BRAZEN ASSAGIN EVEN STRIKES IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.
"YES, THE GAME WAS GOING WELL ALMOST PERFECT
EDDIE!
EDDIE, IT'S ME TILDON! HOW YA BEEN?
UH, FINE, TIL, FINE
GOD, I HARDLY RECOGNIZED YOU, BUT THAT WHITE FORE-LOCK GAVE YOU AWAY SO TELL ME, WHERE'VE YA BEEN FOR SO LONG?
ENGLAND SAY, LISTEN, TIL, IS IT OK IF WE GO OUTSIDE?
SURE, ED! IS KINDA STUFFY!


YEAH, THAT'S BETTER. JEEZ, ED, I WAS REALLY SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR FOLKS. MUST'VE BEEN ROUGH!
ACTUALLY...
...I COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS.
ELIEK!
AND THE NAME...
...IS GRENDEL!
SLASH!
"FINDING A BROKEN BRANCH, I HAD LEFT, THE POLICE EAGERLY DEDUCED THAT GRENDEL HAD COME AND GONE OVER THE BALCONY WALL, AND, AS GRENDEL WAS A HIRED ASSASIN, IT WAS FURTHER ASSUMED THAT MY DEAR FRIEND, TILDON, MUST HAVE HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH ORGANIZED CRIME. THIS WAS, OF COURSE, NOT TRUE, BUT THE RESULTANT BAD PUBLICITY SOON DROVE THE REST OF HIS FAMILY INTO RUIN. PITY.
SO, THEN SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE HAPPENED. JUST AS I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING TO BECOME STABLE AGAIN, THE GAME GOT BETTER!"

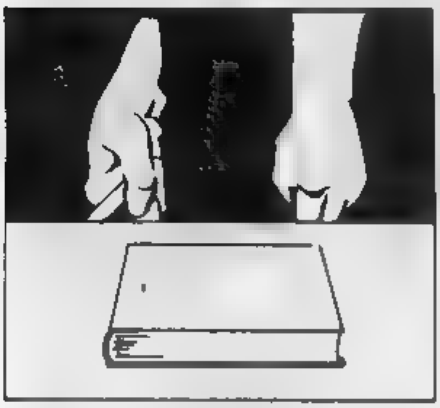
"IT SEEMS THAT MY "HONORABLE" EMPLOYER, THEODORE P. CICCONE III, WAS HIGHLY PLEASED BY MY PERFORMANCE AS HIS HEAD-ASSASSIN. MY EXTRAVAGENT STUNTS SERVED TO STRIKE A **HEARTY** FEAR INTO MANY OF HIS ASSOCIATES. THE ENIGMATIC **GRENDEL** WAS INDEED A MYSTERY TO ALL. **INCLUDING THEO CICCONE.**

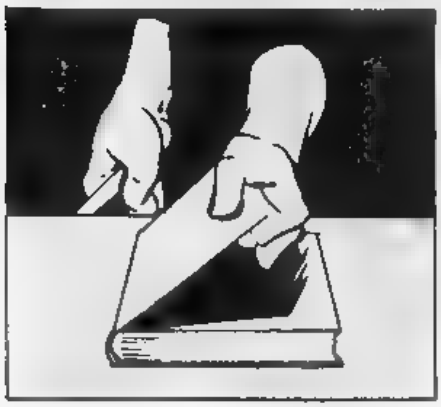
APPARENTLY, HE COULDN'T DEAL WITH NOT KNOWING THE FACE HIDDEN BY THE EERIE BLACK-AND-WHITE MASK.

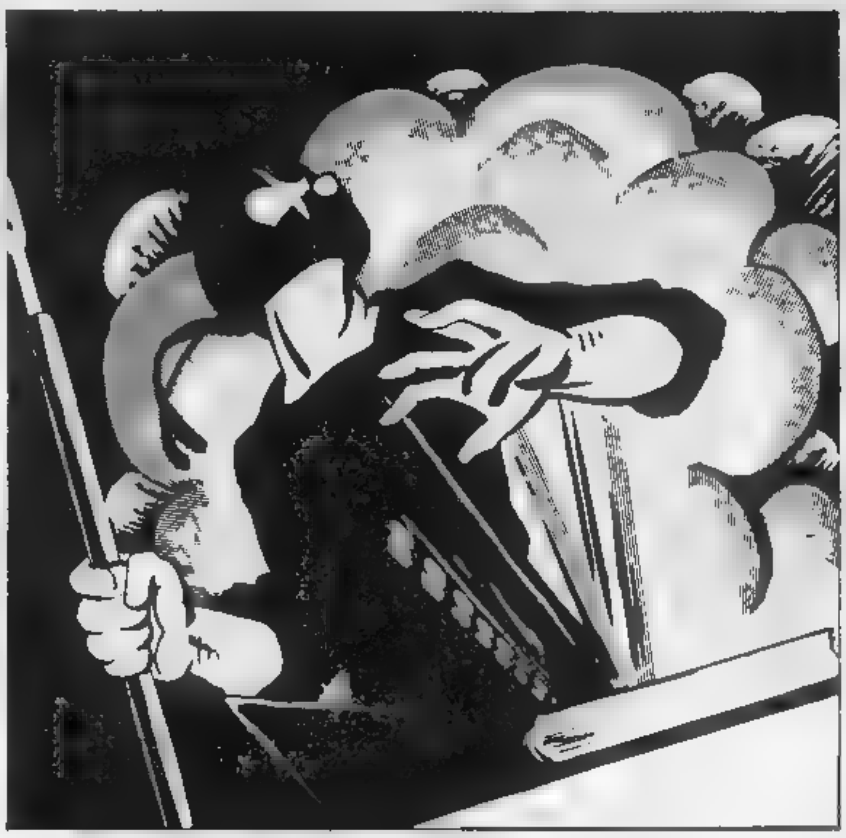
SO, ONE NIGHT ON A ROUTINE VISIT TO HIS PENTHOUSE OFFICE, I FOUND THINGS QUITE EMPTY, WITH A **VERY CONSPICUOUS LEDGER** LAID OUT ON **THEO'S** DESK.

I SMILED AT THE **PAINFUL** OBVIOUSNESS OF IT ALL AND THOUGHT, "WHAT THE HELL?"



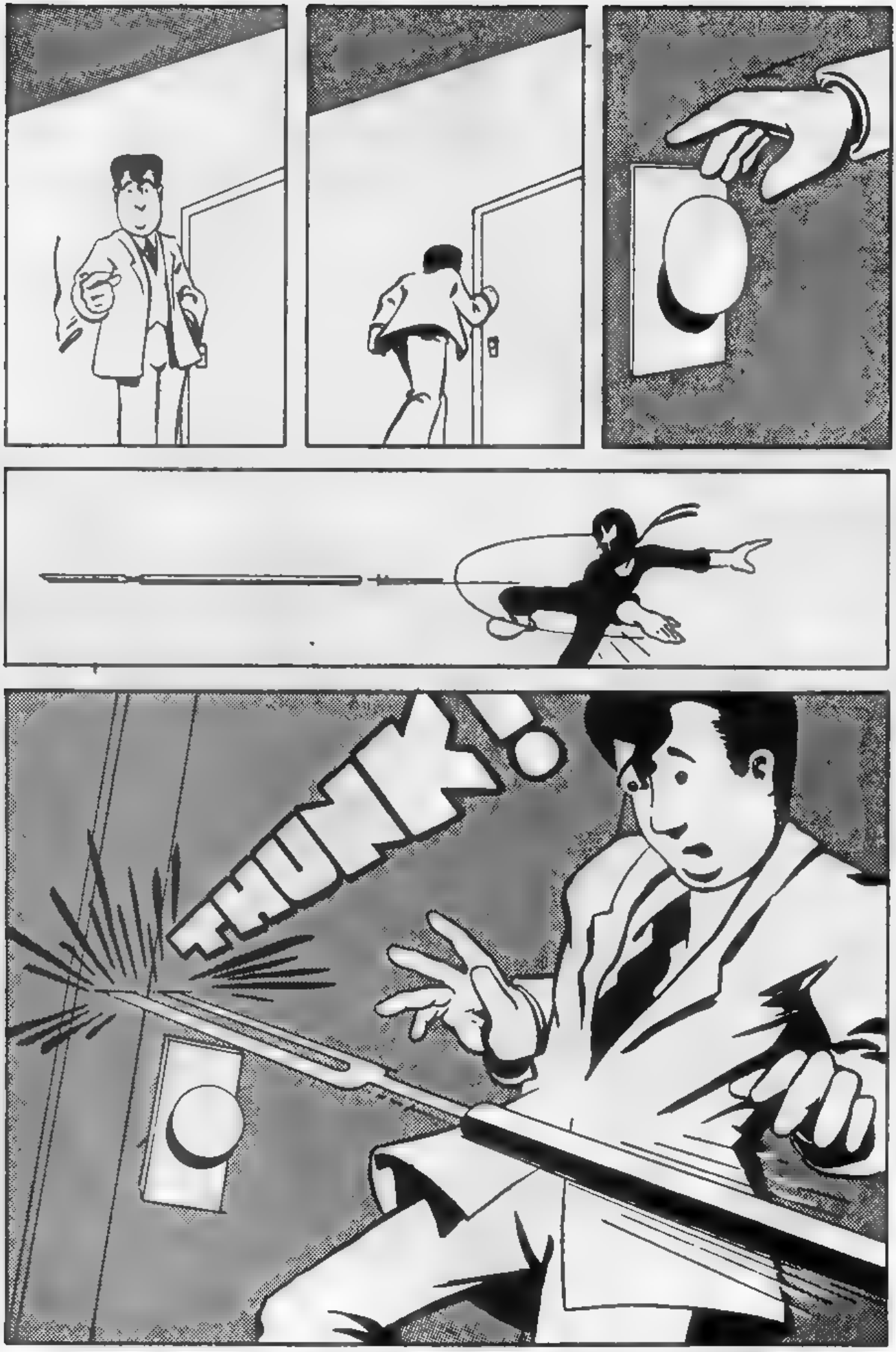


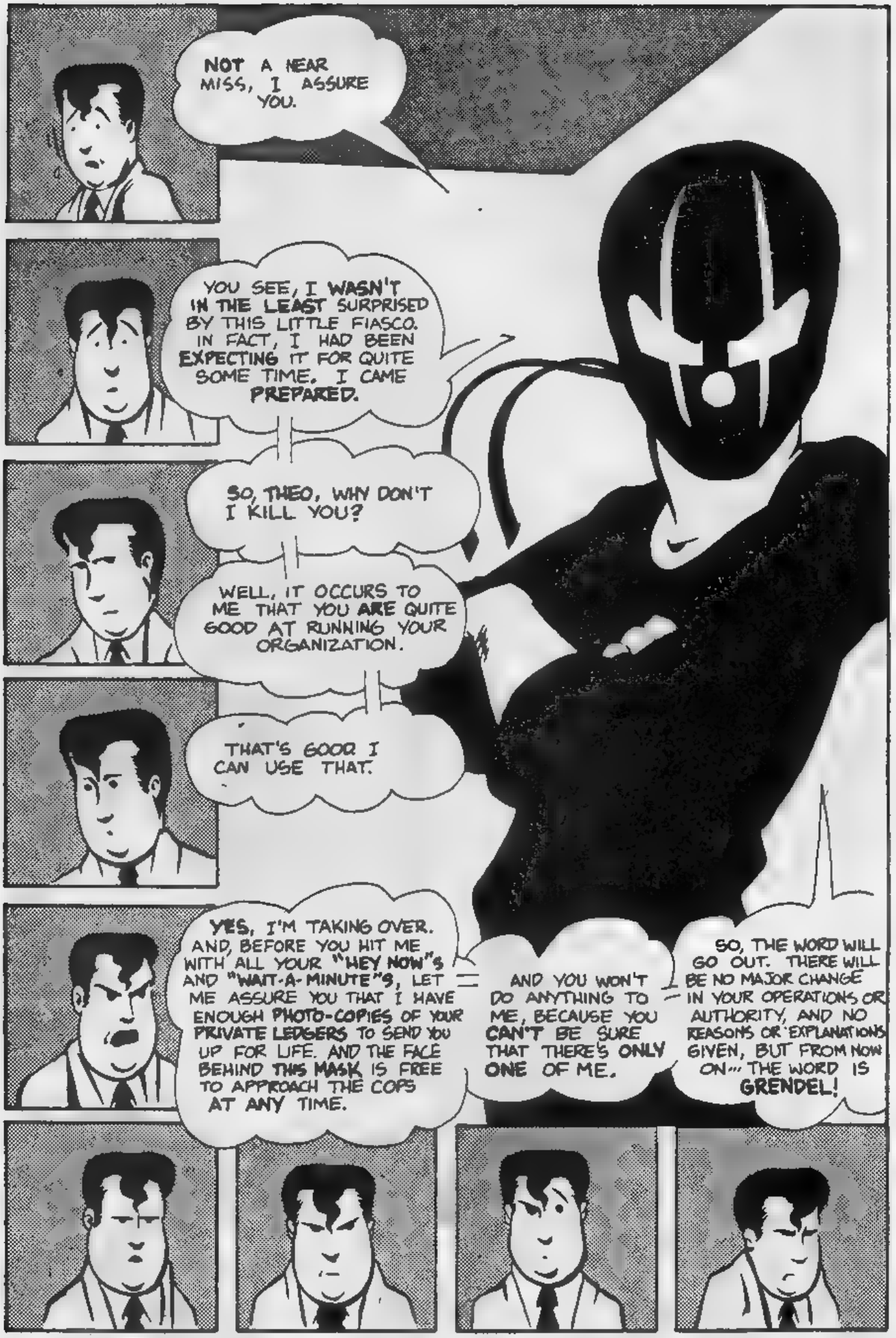





CLICK!
ALRIGHT! GO GET HIM.
WUMP!
SCHIKT!



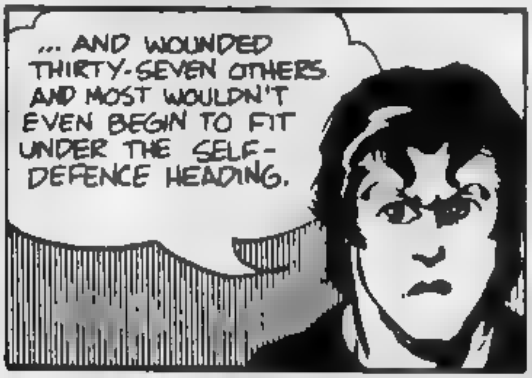

THUNK!


NOT A NEAR MISS, I ASSURE YOU.
YOU SEE, I WASN'T IN THE LEAST SURPRISED BY THIS LITTLE FIASCO. IN FACT, I HAD BEEN EXPECTING IT FOR QUITE SOME TIME. I CAME PREPARED.
SO, THEO, WHY DON'T I KILL YOU?
WELL, IT OCCURS TO ME THAT YOU ARE QUITE GOOD AT RUNNING YOUR ORGANIZATION.
THAT'S GOOD I CAN USE THAT.
YES, I'M TAKING OVER. AND, BEFORE YOU HIT ME WITH ALL YOUR "HEY NOW"S AND "WAIT-A-MINUTE"S, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE ENOUGH PHOTO-COPIES OF YOUR PRIVATE LEDGERS TO SEND YOU UP FOR LIFE. AND THE FACE BEHIND THIS MASK IS FREE TO APPROACH THE COPS AT ANY TIME.
AND YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING TO ME, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BE SURE THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME.
SO, THE WORD WILL GO OUT. THERE WILL BE NO MAJOR CHANGE IN YOUR OPERATIONS OR AUTHORITY, AND NO REASONS OR EXPLANATIONS GIVEN, BUT FROM NOW ON... THE WORD IS GRENDEL!

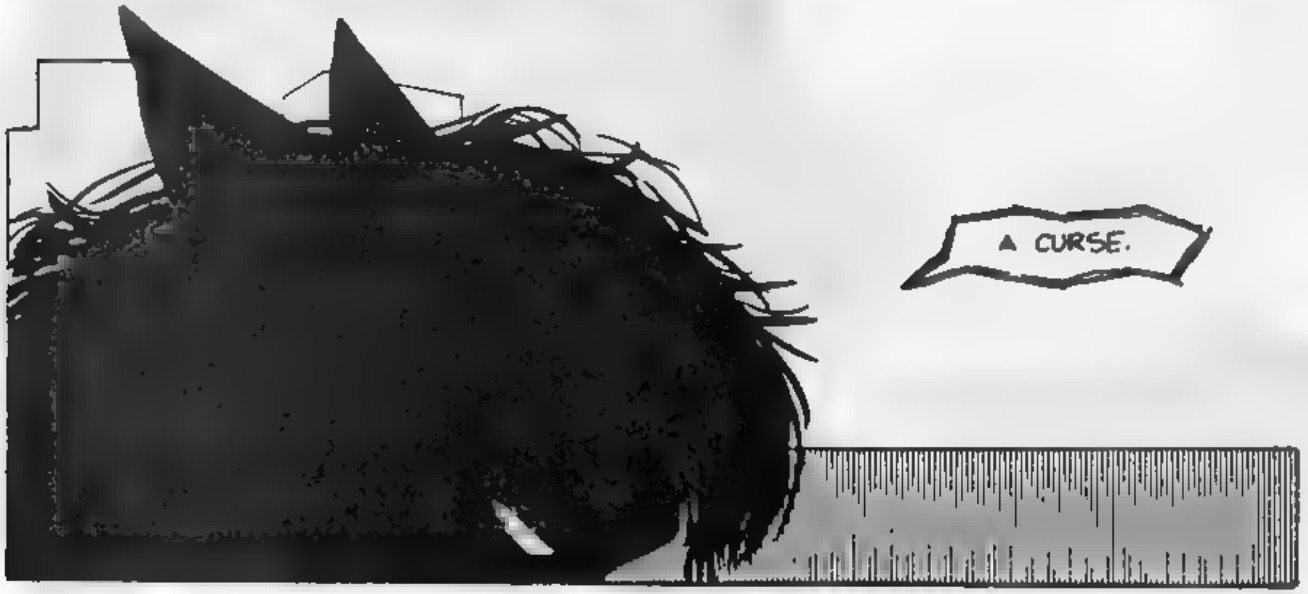

ACTUALLY, HE FOUND IT TO BE RELATIVELY PAINLESS, CONSIDERING THAT INSIDE OF A YEAR, I TRIPLED THE ORGANIZATIONS INCOME. THE INCREASED THREAT OF GRENDEL PRACTICALLY NULLIFIED THE WORKINGS OF RIVAL MOBS IN THE CITY. AND I CUT CERTAIN OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES OFF THE ORGANIZATION'S ROSTER.
OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES?
YES. THEO WAS A FANTASTIC ORGANIZER, BUT LACKED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TASTE AND DISCRETION. I PUT AN END TO SOME OF HIS MORE SEEDY VENTURES. I SUPPOSE THE BIGGEST ONE WAS CHILD PROSTITUTION. I PRACTICALLY WIPED IT OUT IN THE CITY. EVEN IN OTHER MOBS.
THAT'S WHY I KILLED EVERETT CHRISTIE LAST YEAR. I HAD PLANNED TO TAKE OVER ALL HIS HOUSES, ONLY SANS TEENS *
* SEE COMICO PRIMER #2


YOU CALL THAT TASTE AND DISCRETION?!


ARGENT, IN THE LAST THREE YEARS, YOU'VE KILLED FORTY-TWO OF MY MEN...


... AND WOUNDED THIRTY-SEVEN OTHERS AND MOST WOULDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO FIT UNDER THE SELF-DEFENCE HEADING.


SO, BEFORE YOU CONDEMN ME, TELL ME WHAT YOU CALL THAT.


A CURSE.


A CURSE.
NOW, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? I MEAN, I GREW UP, LIKE ALL KIDS, KNOWING THE LEGENDS OF ARGENT, "THE WONDEROUS WOLF!"
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE! SCIENTISTS HAVE NO EXPLANATIONS FOR YOU. EVERYBODY ACCEPTS YOU, REVERES YOU, EVEN!
BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT YOU!
ARGENT...
WHO ARE YOU?

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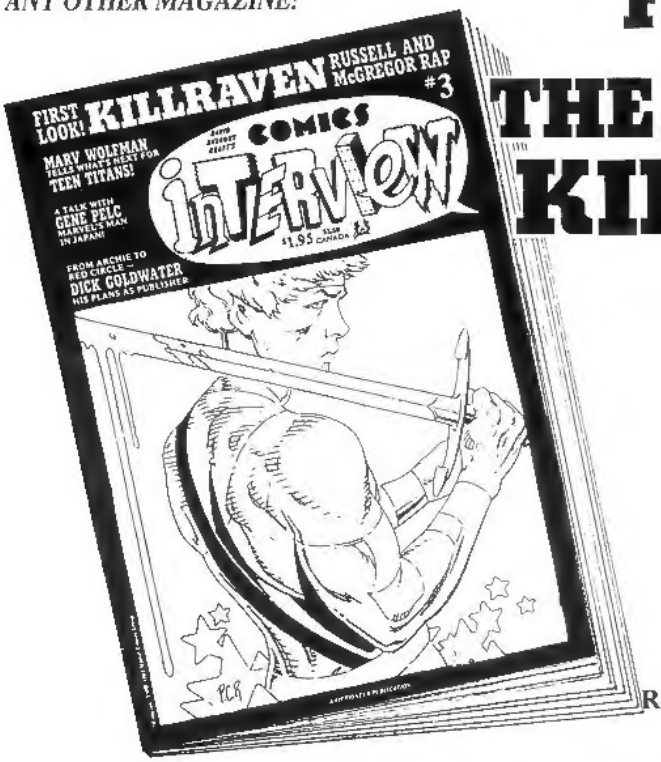
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